

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for improving the extinction ratio of a grouping of polarization maintaining (PM) fibers is disclosed, comprising: providing a plurality of PM fibers, the PM fibers each having corresponding principal axes; disposing the plurality of PM fibers  
5 as a grouping, the grouping having corresponding secondary axes; and aligning the plurality of PM fibers such that the corresponding principal axes of the plurality of the PM fiber and the secondary axes of the grouping intersect at a predetermined angle. Through the methods of the present invention, the extinction ratio of PM fibers may be improved.